

Tech Seeks Third Title in Row as Interhigh Playoffs Start Tonight

Win, Lose, or Draw

By FRANCIS STANN

NOW THAT LARRY MacPHAIL has bought the Bowie Race Track, the town is two-deep in super-sports promoters, the likes of whom exist nowhere in the country. At the time MacPhail was only talking of buying himself a race track, George Marshall observed the possibility that he would draw a worthy rival.

"Although," qualified the boss of the Redskins, wryly, "I doubt if MacPhail rates me as a serious competitor. Did you hear what happened after The Sporting News carried that story on me not long ago?"

"Well, in the headline MacPhail was compared with me. I understand Larry blew a fuse. He wrote an indignant letter to both the author and The Sporting News."

"Nobody, I take it, is going to be compared to MacPhail, according to MacPhail. And certainly in his book, nobody else's name is going to come first, such as Marshall ahead of MacPhail."

THEY ARE SOMEWHAT more than casual acquaintances, Marshall and MacPhail. "I've known Larry for years," George was saying, "and the last time I saw him we had the darndest rhubarb you ever heard in the lobby of a New York hotel. It was about some trivial matter. I was more or less amused by the way MacPhail was heated up."

Regardless of MacPhail's appraisal, there is a general similarity between the two as showmen. Dull moments around either man are few and far between. If there are any more imaginative people in American sports they don't come to mind, although Bill Vecek belongs in this company.

It was MacPhail who sponsored the first night baseball in the major leagues, an innovation which some clubowners regret. It was Marshall who first made between-the-halves entertainment at his pro football games an attraction almost as inviting as the contest itself.

WHEN MacPHAIL OUTGREW Cincinnati as a base of operations, he took off for Brooklyn, a franchise which he correctly believed was being neglected. It didn't take the floating genius long to create a Nation-wide following for the Dodgers. No comedian or master-of-ceremonies had a complete act without a gag pinned on the Dodgers.

There was only one other goal in baseball for MacPhail to achieve. The Yankees, most famous of all clubs and with the biggest stadium to fill. And fill it MacPhail did, as president and co-owner. He held style shows, track meets and, as the piece de resistance, invented the MacPhail Turf & Field Club, a moderately exclusive society open only to anybody who had \$600 or more.

Actually, what MacPhail invented was only a refinement, depending on whether a man is a wet or a dry, of what Marshall had been doing for years, namely selling season tickets. It wasn't so many years ago when Redskin season ticket books were about the most coveted treasure in Washington. During the war, the military officer with transfer orders in the mill who didn't will his ticket books to the big brass was likely to find himself sweating out a long tour on a sand spit in the middle of the Pacific.

MacPHAIL, AMONG OTHERS, embraced the season ticket scheme, adding an extra gimmick officially known as the Yankee Stadium Club. This was and is nothing but a plush drinking lounge on the mezzanine floor of the ball park and to become a member all that was necessary was to have a reasonable chunk of money.

What the prices are today are not known, but when the joint was opened in 1946, for \$900 a person could take himself and five out-of-town buyers to any Yankee ball game. He also was privileged to enter by a private entrance and to occupy a box which carried his name on a plaque. Or, at some additional expense, he could skip the game and simply get stiff.

There is at least one other parallel between the pair. Both Marshall and MacPhail are noted for the deftness with which they can fire coaches and managers. The only difference is that Marshall makes it stick and MacPhail doesn't always. When he was running Brooklyn, Larry used to fire Leo Durocher on an average of three times a week and one spring in Cuba he canned Leo every evening, usually between the soup and meat courses.

How long MacPhail will be satisfied with Bowie is conjectural. Bowie is not a very big race track, being only a cut or two above Sunshine Park, but for the time being it's evident that MacPhail thinks it will be adequate.

When he cuts his teeth at Bowie, though, he'll probably look around, as he did in Cincinnati and Brooklyn. He'll probably buy Santa Anita. Or Epsom Downs.

Duke Near Tourney Spot; Virginia Boosts Streak

By the Associated Press

Duke University today was almost assured of a berth in the Southern Conference tournament at Raleigh, N. C., March 6, 7, and 8 after trouncing Wake Forest last night, 87-62.

It was Duke's 10th straight victory and brought its league standing to 10-3. One more victory would clinch a tournament place.

Virginia ran its winning streak to eight with a 74-59 verdict over Virginia Tech. Vic Mohl starred for Virginia with 21 points.

Sampson Air Force Base Wins Place in Tourney

By the Associated Press

Sampson Air Force Base will represent the Northeast area in the all-Air Force basketball tournament at Omaha, Neb., beginning next Thursday, as a result of its 89-69 victory over Headquarters General last night at Bolling Field.

Only Solace for the Generals was that Don Hinds, their ace who tallied 25 points to lead both teams in scoring, was selected to join Sampson for the tournament. Each area winner is allowed to add a man for the title round.

Just what the answer may be is the problem facing the incoming coach.

"One time they look like the Harlem Globetrotters," Hagerty says, "and the next time they look worse than an intramural team. It's not Buddy's fault. I've seen a lot of basketball coaches and I never have seen anybody work as hard as he has. We've been racking our brains for two years trying to answer that \$64 question. We just can't put our finger on it."

Hot at the Foul Line. There was nothing wrong with the Hoyas last night. They made about 45 per cent of their field goals and scored on 15 of 17 foul shots. Last Saturday night against Richmond, the Hoyas could sink only seven fouls in 21 tries. And O'Grady has his players each shoot 50 fouls every day.

Many games are decided on the foul line and, in the final analysis, the Hoyas won it there last night. Maryland made only three fouls in nine tries, but outscored Georgetown from the floor, 29-28.

The Hoyas, who meet LaSalle in Philadelphia tomorrow night, built up too big a lead on the Terps in the first half. They led, 15-9, in the first period and 34-15 at halftime. Lee Brawley led the Terps to within 10 points—34-24—in the first 3 minutes of the third quarter, but Bob Makatura and Mike Vitale, a deadly set shot, began hitting again and the Hoyas led after that period, 51-39.

Vitale hit for nine shots in 13 tries and wound up with 20 points, while Lou Gigante, who utilizes a soft push-shot, scored 18. Brawley led the Terps with 24 points.

Need Three Victories. The Terps, who beat Richmond, 69-54, in an earlier game, have three games—all Southern Conference tests—remaining: At Richmond Wednesday, George Washington next Friday and Davidson a week from tomorrow. The Terps need all three victories to be assured of a berth in the Conference tournament at Raleigh, N. C., March 6, 7 and 8.

The Hoyas have five games remaining, including tomorrow night's game with LaSalle, winner of 13 and loser of four to date.

Favorite Trying To Tie Record of Eastern, Its Foe

Roosevelt to Battle Coolidge in Nightcap On Trainers' Court

By Brian Bell, Jr.

Tech opens its bid tonight to be the first team to win the Interhigh basketball championship three straight years since Eastern turned the trick in 1934-5-6.

Winners of 33 in a row over a two-year span and heavy favorite to take the playoffs, Tech faces Eastern at 7:30 in the opener and Roosevelt clashes with Coolidge in the second game of the first-round playoffs at Tech.

The winners meet tomorrow night on the same court at 8:15 for the title.

Central was the only high school other than Eastern with a long string of basketball titles, but it shared one championship with the Ramblers. Central won in 1925, but in 1926 its playoff game with Eastern was broken up by a melee and never replayed. The two teams were declared co-champions. Central then went on to win again in 1927 and 1928.

Eastern at Peak. Despite Tech's long winning streak—it hasn't been beaten in Interhigh competition since early in the 1950-51 season—Bobby Hart, Eastern coach, has predicted a victory for his club. The Ramblers lost to Tech by 19 points in their regular season game last week, but were not at full strength with two of their big men, Graham Pennington and Joe D'Ambrosio, ailing.

Tonight Eastern will have Joe D'Ambrosio, Pennington and Dick Torbett for work under the boards and Gino D'Ambrosio, Dick King, and Bob Ahern for outside scoring. Ahern has been sidelined with an injured foot since the Tech game, but is ready for action again.

Dutch Uslaner, the Trainers' coach, will be going after his sixth Interhigh title in 11 seasons as Tech with his regular combination of Snookie Kernan, Bill Green, Joe Caw, Frank Sullivan and Dick DeCesare.

Tech romped through eight Interhigh tests this season with a 68.8 points scoring average, while Kernan, its top point getter, topped individual scorers with a 20.6 mark.

Tech Has Scoring Stars. The Trainers have three players among the top 10 Interhigh scorers with Breen's 14.4 average and Caw's 11.4 placing them 4th and 10th behind Kernan.

Ahern was Eastern's most consistent scorer, ranking eighth with a 12.9 mark.

Eastern, which had to go through a four-team playoff to gain the last title series spot, posted a 6-4 Interhigh mark, but records, comparative scores and scoring averages mean little in a playoff game.

The Coolidge-Roosevelt game stacks up as an even battle despite Roosevelt's 67-47 victory over the Colts last week which got the Riders the league's second place.

Coolidge was sluggish and off its shooting form in that crushing defeat and can be expected to be much better tonight in the "big stakes" game.

Roosevelt in Form. Roosevelt, now playing its best ball of the season, will be at full strength. Phil Perlo, out for two weeks with virus, will play, although he won't break into the probable starting lineup of Bill Smith, Hall Pollin, Bill Wright, Robbie Smithers and Bob Potts.

The Colts, runners-up to Tech in both the Interhigh playoffs and The Star tournament last year, will be banking heavily on two holdover stars to lead them to victory tonight. Ardie Baker and Carmelo Pino, sharpshooting outside men, will have to be guarded closely or they can score heavily. Bill Harrison also is dangerous from long range. Stan Bobb and Rebounder Bob Johnson, who was sick when the Colts played Roosevelt last week, probably will round out the Coolidge starting five.



DOUGH FOR MAGLIE, BONE FOR DOG—Sal Maglie's dog, Barber, was ready to settle for a bone after the New York Giants pitcher signed yesterday at a reported \$36,000, more than twice as much as he received last year, when he won 23 games and lost 6 as the Giants won the National League pennant. Picture was snapped at Maglie's home in Niagara Falls, N. Y. —AP Wirephoto.

Bowie Dates Shifted To Laurel, 2 Tracks To Run 33-Day Meet

Special Dispatch to The Star

BALTIMORE, Feb. 22.—Officials of Laurel and Bowie race tracks today announced plans for a joint 33-day meeting at Laurel, opening March 22 and extending through April 30.

Originally, Bowie had been allotted 15 days and Laurel 18 days. In agreeing on the joint meeting, track officials said purses will total \$22,000 for overnight races, with the overall distribution of money to horsemen expected to be \$50,000 to \$60,000 above the money paid by both tracks last year.

Primary purpose of pooling the tracks' resources at this time, it was explained, is to show the value of longer meetings in Maryland. Both John D. Schapiro, Laurel president, and Larry MacPhail, head of the syndicate which recently purchased Bowie, want longer meetings.

In addition to such stakes as the Cherry Blossom and Laurel Handicap, there will be the Bowie Handicap, a \$20,000-added stake, and the \$10,000 Rowe Memorial, both for 3-year-olds, and the Bowie Kindergarten for juveniles at 5 furlongs, worth \$7,500.

MacPhail said he will use the time to get Bowie ready for a meeting in the fall. Profits of the combined meeting will be prorated between the tracks.

Holy Trinity Wins Title

By Gernaine Caussin's 21 points

With Gernaine Caussin's 21 points pacing the attack, Holy Trinity routed St. Mary's, 57-27, to win the CYO girls' high school basketball championship yesterday. It was the Georgetown school's seventh straight victory without defeat.

Weiss Is 'Burned Up' About Premature Stories of Trade

By the Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., Feb. 22.—George Weiss, New York Yankees' vice president who has had some informal talks with the Washington Nats about a possible deal, is "burned up" about premature stories of a trade. He was particularly miffed because the stories mentioned names of New York players who might be involved.

"We've had some informal talks," Weiss said, "but nothing anywhere near the completion of a deal. We won't be drawn into mentioning any names. It's against Yankee policy."

Catholic University plays Baltimore University tomorrow night at Baltimore. The Cards will try to snap an 8-game losing streak.

Georgetown, 28-15-71, 19-18-17-22-71, 9-6-24-22-61

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The Hoyas have five games remaining, including tomorrow night's game with LaSalle, winner of 13 and loser of four to date.

German Sledders Capture Four-Man Olympic Title

By the Associated Press

OSLO, Feb. 22.—Germany's Andreas Ostler, a skilled and daring driver, completed an Olympic double today by capturing the four-man bobsled championship with four dazzling runs down the icy, 1,500-meter Frognerseteren chute.

The nerveless, 32-year-old Garmisch innkeeper whizzed his heavily weighted sled through a snowfall in two sensational clockings of 1:16.55 and 1:16.85 for a total time of 5:07.83. Both of his runs today were faster than his two trips of yesterday, which were good enough to give him a .79 of a lead over the American No. 1 sled, piloted by Stan Benham, Lake Placid veteran.

Winner of the two-man bobsled title earlier in the games, the husky German, rated the world's foremost sledder, threw caution to the winds today.

Benham Poor Second. Benham captured second place but he trailed badly, being clocked in 5:10.48.

The winning margin was a whopping 2.65 seconds, a big chunk of ground the way these oak and steel monsters rocket downward.

Switzerland's No. 1 and No. 2 sleds took third and fourth places on times of 5:11.70 and 5:13.98, followed by Austria's No. 1 sled, 5:14.74, and Sweden's No. 1, 5:15.01.

America's No. 2 sled finished ninth in the field of 15 with 5:19.68 after making two runs without mishap in 1:19.49 and 1:21.09. Jim Bickford's crew narrowly averted two serious cracks yesterday when the steel stirrups snapped twice. Only the skill of the 39-year-old forest ranger saved the day.

The United States picked up five points on leading Norway in the team standings on Benham's second place and now have a total of 78½ to the host country's 101. Third-place Austria gained two points for fifth and now has 58 points.

Filed on the Pace. The Americans trailed by nearly a full second (.96 of a second) after Ostler's third dash, which set a meet record, and only an accident to the Germans could have given them the victory.

Ostler didn't crack—he just piled on the pace. Benham was timed in 1:18.54 for his final heat, his slowest run of the four. He had zipped down the icy culvert in 1:16.72 on his third run, which was the second best time of the games.

The Germans brought two sleds, took third and fourth places on times of 5:11.70 and 5:13.98. Austria's No. 1 sled was fifth in 5:14.74 followed by Sweden No. 1, 5:15.01; Sweden No. 2, 5:17.86; Argentina No. 1, 5:18.85 and, in ninth place, United States No. 2, 5:19.68. Italy's No. 1 was tenth in the field of 15 with 5:19.83.

Benham told reporters: "This snow was very bad for us. It was not so heavy when the German came down as when we made our run."

"The Germans were also the heaviest team which helped especially in snow."

Benham expressed doubt, however, about the results.

(See OLYMPICS, Page C-2.)

four-man teams here for the event but they decided to pack their heaviest men on one sled and scratched the other sled. It paid off.

Ostler's sled generally was outsped by the Americans on the first half of the runs, but the beefy Teutons picked up tremendous momentum midway in their heats and there was no stopping them.

They leaned into the treacherous curves and shot down the icy trip, their steel runners singing as they swept downward in a breathtaking surge. At their peak, the Germans hit close to 80 miles an hour.

Mishaps Avoided. America's No. 2 sled, piloted by iron-nerved Jim Bickford of Saranac Lake, N. Y., traveled two runs today without mishap in 1:19.49 and 1:21.09 for a total time of 5:19.68.

Bickford's sled snapped its stirrups twice in the first two heats yesterday but the 39-year-old forest ranger steered the stricken sled to safe finishes.

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Nardico, Villemain Even In Garden Bout Tonight

By the Associated Press

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—Danny Nardico, the fighting Marine from Tampa, Fla., was rated even money against stout-hearted Robert Villemain of France for their 10-rounder in Madison Square Garden tonight.

The fur should fly in this 10 p.m. bout.

(The fight will be broadcast over Station WMAL and televised over WNBW here.)

Villemain's record is 48-6-2, with 12 knockouts. Nardico, who started boxing with the Marines in the Pacific, has won 32 bouts, lost 6 and fought 2 draws. He has 24 kayos to his credit.

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